



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10**

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OFFICE OF  
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TRIBAL AND PUBLIC  
AFFAIRS

March 21, 2016

Toni Ristau  
354<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, Public Affairs Office (354 FW/PA)  
354 Broadway Avenue, Suite 15A  
Eielson AFB, AK 99702

Dear Ms. Ristau:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the United States Air Force F-35A Operational Beddown – Pacific Final Environmental Impact Statement (EPA Project No. 15-0022-DOD). We reviewed this Final EIS in accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA.

We appreciate your responsiveness to the concerns we identified in our September 17, 2015, letter relating to wetlands impacts, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act sites, noise impacts and the range of alternatives. We appreciate the inclusion of additional information in the Final EIS regarding noise impacts and environmental justice populations, as well as the incorporation of our suggested language regarding CERCLA sites.

We continue to believe that, given the rather broad purpose and need, it would have been appropriate to consider other reasonable alternatives, such as an alternative that stations one F-35A squadron at Eielson and the other squadron at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Even if this alternative was disqualified from further analysis, we believe the EIS would be stronger by including an evaluation and discussion of other reasonable alternatives.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this Final EIS. If you have questions about our comments, please contact me at (206) 553-1601 or [littleton.christine@epa.gov](mailto:littleton.christine@epa.gov), or contact Jennifer Curtis of my staff at (907) 271-6324 or [curtis.jennifer@epa.gov](mailto:curtis.jennifer@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

Christine B. Littleton, Manager  
Environmental Review and Sediment Management Unit